AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1.   (Previously Presented) A processor-based method for determining difficulty measures

2   for training cases used in developing a solution to a problem, comprising:

3   providing a set of training cases having respectively associated difficulty measures;

4   operating a candidate solution on a particular training case;

5   determining a performance measure of the candidate solution operating on the particular

6   training case;

7   determining a credibility rating of the candidate solution, the credibility rating indicating

8   a degree to which the performance measure is representative of the difficulty measure of the

9   particular training case; and

10   modifying the difficulty measure of the particular training case based on the performance

11   measure of the candidate solution operating on the particular training case and the credibility

12   rating of the candidate solution.

1   2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the credibility rating comprises:

2   selecting one or more training cases from the set of training cases based on the difficulty

3   measures of the one or more training cases;

4   determining performance measures of the candidate solution operating on each of the one

5   or more training cases; and

6   computing the credibility rating based on the performance measures of the candidate

7   solution operating on each of the one or more training cases.

1   3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more training cases does not

2   include the particular training case.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the set of training cases having

2   respectively associated difficulty measures comprises initializing a difficulty measure of each

3   training case in the set of training cases to a predetermined value.

1   5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined value is a maximum value.

1 6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

2   providing the set of training cases comprises associating each training case in the set of

3 training cases with a target output;

4   operating the candidate solution on the particular training case comprises obtaining an

5 output from the candidate solution operating on the particular training case; and

6   determining the performance measure of the candidate solution operating on the

7 particular training cases comprises comparing the candidate solution output to a target output of

8 the particular training case.

1 7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein comparing the candidate solution output to

2 the target output of the particular training case comprises calculating a value corresponding to a

3 deviation between the candidate solution output and the target output of the particular training

4 case.

1 8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the difficulty measure of the

2 particular training case comprises modifying the difficulty measure based on a weighted average

3 of the performance measure and a previous value of the difficulty measure.

1 9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein a weight of the weighted average is based on

2 the credibility rating and a base learning rate.

1 10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the difficulty measure comprises

2 maintaining the difficulty measure within a predetermined interval.

1 11. – 30. (Cancelled).